

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

So as to prevent erroneous recognition in position detection by pattern matching in, for instance, wire bonding, identical template images are set to be superimposed while the relative positions of such images are varied, and correlation values are calculated at respective positions so as to be taken as amounts of coincidence. The amount of coincidence between the template images shows a maximum value at a position of coincidence but drops abruptly in the vicinity of this position of coincidence. Utilizing this fact, the amount of coincidence is calculated from the correlation value between the template images and an inputted image; when the drop in the amount of coincidence, that appears near the position of maximum coincidence value, is larger than a predetermined coincidence discriminating value, a position of coincidence at the maximum coincidence value is judged as a position of coincidence of the template and the inputted image.